SECRET [redacted]

file 1094

18 December 1968

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT : The 303 Committee Meeting of 20 December 1968 on Chile.

1. The purpose of this memorandum is to describe recent developments in the election program and political situation which have occurred since the preparation of the latest progress report to the 303 Committee.

2. [redacted]

3. In the political arena there have been several developments since mid-November which should be noted:

a) Besides taking an open stand against any form of alliance with the Communists President Frei in mid-November also ousted a key figure in his agrarian reform program, Jacques Chonchol (who worked on Fidel Castro's program in this sector and is the architect of a "non-capitalist road to development" in Chile);

b) The leftist elements in the PDC unsuccessfully tried to force the ouster of the hard-line, anti-Communist Interior Minister Perez Zujovic but he was able to obtain support for himself in the form of a declaration signed by 50 PDC members of the Chamber of Deputies (the PDC has 82 Deputies altogether);

c) The Frei government has knuckled under to demands of students at the Communist-dominated State Technical University following violent demonstrations last week.

Declassified and Approved for Release July 2000

SECRET [redacted]

As a result the GOC will provide a supplemental appropriation to that university's budget.

d) In late November the Communist-dominated labor center (CUTCH) held its congress at which Christian Democrat and Radical unions participated for the first time since breaking away in 1965. The result were embarrassing for all groups as the Communists obtained a majority of the leadership posts and retained the presidency by virtue of superior preparation and organizational techniques.